Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
Applicant: Ravi Chandar et al.
Serial No.: 09/895,760
Filed: June 29, 2001
Docket No.: 10008058-1
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING COMPUTER ACCESS WITH ELECTRONIC
PAYMENT MECHANISM

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 11, and 17-20 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of public access computing comprising:

providing a computer system; and

permitting a user access to at least one of a software application and an input/output device of the computer system ~~only after~~upon obtaining payment authorization ~~has been obtained~~ for a financial instrument of the user ~~from~~via a financial instrument reader.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the using step further comprises:

displaying a screen saver on a monitor of the computer system for preventing access to the software applications until payment authorization for a user is received through an electronic payment mechanism.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the displaying step further comprises:

displaying icons representing the software applications available in the computer system;

displaying information regarding prices for using the computer system; and

displaying demonstrations of the software applications.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the permitting step further comprises:

displaying a desktop user interface on a monitor of the computer system to permit access to the at least one software application and input/output devices.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the displaying step further comprises:

providing activatable keyword functions for each software application and input/output device including at least one of a word processor function, spreadsheet function, presentation function, application service provider function, printer function, scanner function, copier function, facsimile function, and digital sender function.

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6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 and further comprising:

tracking use of the computer system for billing purposes including at least one of the

following parameters:

time of use of the computer system;

time of use for each software application;

time of use of each peripheral input/output device;

quantity of job requests to each peripheral input/output device; and

quantity of each item produced by each peripheral input/output device.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the tracking step further comprises:

counting requests to peripheral input/output devices; and

calculating the total cost to the user including time of use for the computer system and

the number of input/output requests.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the permitting step further comprises:

obtaining authorization from a financial services database for electronically charging

a user's credit card or bank-issued debit card.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the using step further comprises:

locking the computer system with a screen saver to prevent its use when no

authorization for use of the computer system is present; and

unlocking the computer system for use of the software application and the

input/output device by displaying a desktop display upon a user receiving payment

authorization through the electronic payment mechanism.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 and further comprising:

providing the input/output devices as at least one of a scanner, a printer, a facsimile

machine, and a copier, each being configured for conveying input and output from the

computer system.

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11.   (Currently Amended) A method of selective public access computing comprising:

providing a computer system workstation with at least one software application;

displaying a user interface on a display of the computer system workstation including a representation of the at least one software application of the computer system workstation while preventing access to the at least one software application;

electronically reading a financial instrument to ~~obtaining~~ an electronic payment authorization ~~for from~~ for the financial instrument;

permitting access to the at least one software application based on the electronic payment authorization;

tracking use of the computer system workstation including the software application and input/output devices of the computer system workstation;

charging the financial instrument with a fee based on the tracking step; and

terminating access to the at least one software application upon notification from the user.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Previously Presented) A selective access computer system comprising:

a computing workstation having at least one software application;

a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization; and

a resource tracker configured for determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to input/output devices connected to the computer workstation.

14.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 13 wherein the computer workstation further comprises:

a program monitor configured for permitting selection of the at least one software

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application; and

a peripheral input/output monitor configured for permitting selection of at least one

input/output device.

15.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 13 wherein the selective access

mechanism further comprises:

a screen saver configured for appearing on a display of the computing workstation to

prevent access to the computing workstation until payment authorization is received.

16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer access system comprising:

an electronic payment mechanism for electronically obtaining ~~electronic~~ payment

authorization for a financial instrument, including at least one of a credit card and a debit

card, via a financial instrument reader; and

a controller in communication with the electronic payment mechanism and ~~configured~~

~~for connection~~ connectable to a computer system workstation to~~and for permitting~~ enable

selective access to the computer system workstation upon ~~based on~~ payment authorization

~~through~~ via the electronic payment mechanism;~~ and~~

~~wherein the electronic payment mechanism further comprises a financial instrument~~

~~reader configured for electronically reading financial instruments including credit cards and~~

~~debit cards.~~

18.   (Currently Amended) A selective access computer system comprises:

an electronic payment mechanism including a reader configured for obtaining

electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument;

at least one input/output device;

a computer workstation including:

at least one software application; and

a resource tracker for determining a cost of using the computer system based on an

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amount of time of use and quantity of use of at least one software applications of the computer workstation and the at least one input/output devices; and

a user interface configured for permitting access to at least one of the at least one software application and the at least one input/output devices only upon payment authorization ,viathrough the electronic payment mechanism, for an estimated amount of the cost of using the computer system workstation.

19. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of permitting selective computer system access, the method comprising:

providing a computer system; and

permitting access to at least one of a software application and an input/output device of the computer system only after payment authorization has been obtained for the user via a financial instrument reader.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer user interface comprising:

a screen saver display configured for appearing on a monitor of a computer system when a user is not financially authorized to use the computer system and configured for to thereby preventing use of the computer system; and

a desktop display configured for appearing on a monitor of a computer system when a user is financially authorized to use the computer system and configured to permit access to and operation of the computer system when authorization is obtained via a financial instrument reader.